

REMARKS

Claims 54-60 are pending in this application. Claims 54-60 stand rejected.

Reconsideration and further examination of the subject patent application in light of the present Amendment and Remarks is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 54-58 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 4,352,099 to Cristen et al. in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,351,982 to Tindall et al. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

In response, independent claim 54 has been clarified by being further directed to “a metal connecting frame having a plurality of conductors extending between first and second ends, the plurality of conductors formed into connector pins on the first end with a first portion of the plurality of conductors on the second end formed into a plurality of pads and a second portion of the plurality of conductors on the second end formed into an array of tabs.” The metal connecting frame 100 having a plurality of conductors extending between first and second ends, the plurality of conductors formed into connector pins 105 on the first end with a first portion of the plurality of conductors on the second end formed into a plurality of pads 103 and a second portion of the plurality of conductors on the second end formed into an array of tabs 104 are discussed in paragraphs [0062-9] and are shown in FIGs. 7-13 of the specification.

Claim 54 has also been clarified by being further directed to “the second outer portion forming a partially enclosed molded plastic sensing region that supports the plurality of pads for a gas sensor with the second portion defining a gas inflow port and with a side of the second portion opposite the partially enclosed molded plastic sensing regions supporting the array of

tabs as a basis for an external connector and wherein the second portion forms a shroud around the connector pins.” The second outer portion forming a partially enclosed molded plastic sensing region that supports the plurality of pads 103 for a gas sensor with the second portion defining a gas inflow port and with a side of the second portion opposite the partially enclosed molded plastic sensing regions supporting the array of tabs 104 as a basis for an external connector and wherein the second portion forms a shroud around the connector pins 105 are discussed in paragraphs [0062-9] and are shown in FIGs. 7-13 of the specification.

Claims 54-58 are now clearly differentiated over Christen et al. and Tindall et al. In this regard, claim 54 is now directed to “a metal connecting frame having a plurality of conductors.” In contrast, Christen et al. is directed to a metallic bushing 9 extending between contact pins 10 and a balancing adapter 7. The metallic bushing 9 of Christen et al. merely connects a “circuit chamber or space” 2 with a gas sensing element 6. However, there does not appear to be any way of modifying Christen et al. to be structurally similar to that of the claimed invention without changing the way in which Christen et al. operates.

Similarly, Tindall et al. is merely directed to a screw-together housing for a gas detector. Nowhere within Christen et al. and Tindall et al. and the combination of Christen et al. and Tindall et al. is there any disclosure of a “a metal connecting frame having a plurality of conductors extending between first and second ends, the plurality of conductors formed into connector pins on the first end with a first portion of the plurality of conductors on the second end formed into a plurality of pads and a second portion of the plurality of conductors on the second end formed into an array of tabs; and a housing having a first portion formed of a first type plastic, the first portion, at least in part, surrounds the frame with elongated portions of the frame extending through and encapsulated by portions of the first type of plastic with other

portions of the frame accessible to provide contacts exterior to the first portion, and with the encapsulated portion of the frame forming a flame proof seal with the encapsulating first portion with the housing having a second outer plastic portion, the second portion is molded over and encloses the first portion and non-contact portions of the frame, and is formed of a different plastic material with the second outer portion forming a partially enclosed molded plastic sensing region that supports the plurality of pads for a gas sensor with the second portion defining a gas inflow port and with a side of the second portion opposite the partially enclosed molded plastic sensing regions supporting the array of tabs as a basis for an external connector and wherein the second portion forms a shroud around the connector pins."

Since Christen et al. and Tindall et al. and the combination of Christen et al. and Tindall et al. do not disclose the specifically claimed features of the invention, the combination fails to teach or suggest each and every feature and limitation of the claimed invention. Since the combination does not teach or suggest each and every limitation of the claimed invention, the rejections are improper and should be withdrawn.

Claim 59 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 4,352,099 to Cristen et al. in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,351,982 to Tindall et al. and EP 0940680 to Doncaster et al. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

In this regard, Doncaster et al. is also directed to a pair of wires 4, 5 that extend through a can 2 between a bead 1 and a pair of terminals 6, 7. As such, Doncaster et al. (as with Christen et al. and Tindall et al.) fails to disclose the metal connecting frame in the context of the claimed invention. As such, Christen et al., Tindall et al. and Doncaster et al. and the combination of Christen et al., Tindall et al. and Doncaster et al. fail to disclose each and every feature and

limitation of the claimed invention. Since the combination does not teach or suggest each and every limitation of the claimed invention, the rejection is improper and should be withdrawn.

Claim 60 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 4,352,099 to Cristen et al. in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,351,982 to Tindall et al. and U.S. Pat. No. 5,601,693 to Davies. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

In this regard, Davies et al. is also directed to a pair of conducting arms 5 that extend through a casing 8 between a sensing element 4 and a pair of extensions 7. As such, Davies (as with Christen et al. and Tindall et al.) fails to disclose the metal connecting frame in the context of the claimed invention. As such, Christen et al., Tindall et al. and Davies and the combination of Christen et al., Tindall et al. and Davies fail to disclose each and every feature and limitation of the claimed invention. Since the combination does not teach or suggest each and every limitation of the claimed invention, the rejection is improper and should be withdrawn.

Closing Remarks

For the foregoing reasons, applicant submits that the subject application is in condition for allowance and earnestly solicits an early Notice of Allowance. Should the Primary Examiner be of the opinion that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of the subject application, the Primary Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned at the below-listed number.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee which may be required for this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.18, including but not limited to the issue fee, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 23-0920. Should no proper amount be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise

improper or informal, or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 23-0920. (*If filed by paper, a duplicate copy of this sheet(s) is enclosed.*)

Respectfully submitted,

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